



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

SANDOZ ATLAS OF HAEMATOLOGY—Edited by Dr. E. Undritz of Sandoz Research Laboratories. Sandoz Blood Atlas, 68 Charlton St., N. Y. 14, 1954 (English edition). (Translated from German, 1952 edition.) 91 pages, plus 44 plates containing 579 color slides, \$7.00.

The main contribution of this atlas is a series of color photographs illustrating various blood and marrow cells. As such, it provides the best morphological reference work available. The pictures are excellent, and in contrast to most similar texts, show the cells as they are seen through the microscope rather than giving an idealized artistic representation. The pictures are primarily illustrations of individual cellular morphology, and no attempt is made to provide a systematic coverage of blood and bone marrow pathology.

The accompanying text reflects the European preoccupation with details of morphology. Although it contains much useful information including some valuable staining techniques, it cannot serve as a substitute for the standard textbooks of hematology.

This work is highly recommended to medical students and to all who have occasion to examine blood and bone marrow smears. The brilliant stains achieved in the original preparations which were photographed should serve as a standard to laboratories. Far too many errors in morphological interpretation result from unsatisfactory preparations.

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THREE "INCARNATIONS." Florence Sylvester Winchell, M.D., The Christopher Publishing House, Boston 20, Mass., 1954. 268 pages, illustrated. \$3.50.

Out of a "sentimental intensity of love" for her father and the indelible impressions his personality made on her life and activities, Dr. Florence Sylvester Winchell presents this most interesting "Three Incarnations," part of the story of her life.

She was the only child of a remarkable Maine-born dentist whose practice in Berlin included the nineteenth century nobility of Germany. An ardent yachtsman, devotee of the arts, a social figure, a wise and conscientious advisor, Dr. Sylvester provided for his daughter the foundations for a rich life.

Her first incarnation she describes as that part of her life in German boarding schools, as hostess on the yacht and in the various of the Sylvester homes; the meetings with Kaiser Wilhelm, great authors, dancers and sculptors; her visit to relatives in the United States and her decision to study medicine in California. Shattered by the news of her father's suicide in Germany, the philosophy of serenity and acceptance which he had instilled in her carried her safely through her first incarnation.

In describing her second incarnation, the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, the earthquake and fire, her internship at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Syracuse, New York, her practice of medicine in Oakland, California, her work in the public schools of Oak-

land, her years with the Baby Hospital, prenatal clinics, and the incidents of her practice of medicine make a warm, vital, vivid human story.

Her third incarnation brought her to the winter solstice but not alone after her long years. The social whirl of Berlin and her love of her father lie in the dimming past; her experiences, and the sacrifices and joys of medical practice are a memory. Of the love story of her later years she says "life has nothing to offer which might excel it!"

This is a great success story which will appeal to readers who enjoy striking tales about people, events and healthy philosophies.

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A SYNOPSIS OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES. John Rendle-Short, M.A., M.B. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P., D.C.H., Senior Registrar, Department of Child Health, Welsh National School of Medicine. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol. Distributed through Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1954. 608 pages, \$7.00.

This Synopsis of Children's Diseases is a most complete and up-to-date presentation of practical pediatrics. While totaling 608 pages, its size is such that it may be readily carried in the pocket or in the medical kit of the practicing physician. It should be of great value to general practitioners, house officers, and junior and senior medical students during their training program in the out-patient and in-patient pediatric services. A most detailed index of 41 pages provides prompt and easy reference to context.

It perhaps would have been better for the authors not to have used Fried's, Clark's or Young's rule for calculation of dosages, but to have established dosages for various drugs on the basis of surface area of the body, a reference which appears to be far more satisfactory than these empiric rules.

While in no sense does this book replace standard up-to-date texts and the necessity for the thorough reading of current pediatric subjects, it will no doubt be of great practical value to those who care for infants and children.

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FLUID THERAPY. James D. Hardy, M.S. (Chem.), M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Surgical Laboratories, Medical College of the University of Tennessee. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1954. 255 pages, \$5.50.

The title of this volume by no means does justice to its content, which encompasses far more than "fluid therapy."

In this book, which is written particularly from the point of view of the surgical patient who has fluid, electrolyte and nutritional disorders, the practicing physician and student alike will find answers to many problems with which he is confronted in this increasingly complex field, so important to modern medicine. Much information that is scattered through the literature is here available, as follows: Chapter 1, physiology of body fluid regulation; Chapter 2, methodology used in study of the subject in question; Chapters 3 to 6 deal with the approach to the management of clinical

problems. Among the special subjects considered in Chapters 7 to 15 are potassium depletion, management of intestinal obstruction, fluid and electrolyte therapy in infants and children, and problems particularly concerning the surgical specialties. Chapter 16 is concerned with the early treatment of burns; Chapter 17 with blood volume, shock, and the management of blood loss; Chapter 18 with liquid alimentation, and 19 with complications of fluid therapy.

This text, like many texts, suffers from the limitations which briefness requires. For instance, in the limited space it is not possible to be critical of the methods used in studying fluid and electrolyte balance, or to present alternate points of view in problems relating to therapy. For example, the author calculates needs for electrolyte (osmolar) replacement on the bases of extracellular fluid volume, instead of upon the volume of total body water, which is more commonly acceptable. Notwithstanding the differences this reader has with the book, it is one he will want in his own library.

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LECTURES ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE—Volume II, 1952-1953. University of London. The Athlone Press, 1954, distributed in U.S.A. by John de Graff, Inc., 64 West 23rd Street, New York 10. 380 pages, \$6.00.

This volume contains sixteen lectures from a larger series on the scientific basis of medicine sponsored by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. The authors are all experts in their fields and the range of topics is wide. Progress in antibiotics by Sir Alexander Fleming, the functional significance of connective tissue by Robb-Smith, human hæmoglobins by J. C. White and the principles of ganglionic block by W. D. M. Paton are samples which give an idea of the territory covered. The articles are admirably written as the British know how to do so well. There are bibliographies, figures and fine paper and printing. This enterprise is one which could well be copied in this country.

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PRIMER OF ALLERGY—A Guidebook for Those Who Must Find Their Way Through the Mazes of This Strange and Tantalizing State — Fourth Edition. Warren T. Vaughan, M.S., M.D., Richmond, Va. Fourth Edition revised by J. Harvey Black, M.D., Dallas. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1954. 191 pages, \$4.25.

This book can be highly recommended to patients and parents who are confronted and usually puzzled about clinical allergies. Written by the famed pioneering student of the subject, Dr. Warren Vaughan, and recently revised by another highly regarded pioneer in the field, Dr. J. Harvey Black, the volume, now in its fourth edition, is written in a readable and informing manner. The multifaceted information which must be included in the patient's carefully recorded history, the various allergens entering the body through the gastrointestinal and upper respiratory tract; the many allergens with which skin testing is indicated and possible, the negative skin test which is so common in food allergy and less frequent but existent in inhalant allergy, the unfortunate dependence on diets excluding only positive reacting foods, which is largely preventing the recognition of the many manifestations of food allergy today, and the importance of diet trial for the study and control of food allergy are elucidated in varying degrees in the text.

Treatment is discussed without specific directions, which properly are left in the physician's province. The usual multiplicity of inhalant and/or food allergies rather than allergy to a single allergen is noted. Thus the physician's or allergist's challenge is to consider all possible allergies and gradually through continued study and often long cooperation of the patient, as discussed in the text, to determine the major and, if present, secondary causes through the

relief of the patient's symptoms. The obstacles to proper cooperation and the reasons for failure of antiallergic study and control are discussed.

Lay readers are helped greatly by questions and answers at the end of most chapters and at the book's end. Most allergists would modify or change some of this information, making it more specific for food and/or inhalant allergies, especially in directions concerning allergic eczema, allergic headaches, allergic colitis, and gastrointestinal allergy. The listing of foods containing milk and wheat is of help but may give patients the impression that the elimination of single foods usually is effective. The multiplicity of food allergies and the usual necessity of utilizing diet trial accurately and with experience must be appreciated by all. The usual futility of recording practically all diet diaries is insufficiently discussed, since they are usually inaccurate. The physician's time can be better spent in assuring himself that a list of allowed, relatively nonallergic foods, as in standardized elimination diets, is being adhered to and in considering possible allergies to listed foods or to various inhalant and rare infectant allergens when relief fails in a reasonable time.

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A SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—11th Edition. Aleck W. Bourne, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G., Consulting Gynaecologist, St. Mary's Hospital, London; John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, 1954. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore. 536 pages, \$5.00.

This eleventh edition is a synopsis or compend, presenting the subjects in an easily arranged format. While it has been entirely rewritten, it contains much to which American authors give little attention, such as symphysiotomy. In the treatment of eclampsia, the Stroganoff method is first presented. In the management of diabetes mellitus, no mention is made of early delivery to prevent stillbirths. In this complication of pregnancy, cesarean section is not as well accepted as it is in our country.

In the gynecological section, the chapters on carcinoma are well written and the treatment of fibromyomata seems to be most conservative.

The purpose for which this book is intended, that of an outline for preparing examinations, will be served in the country where the book will be most used.

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TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE GYNECOLOGY. Wilfred Shaw, M.A. (Camb.), M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G., Late Surgeon in Charge, Gynecological and Obstetrical Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Examiner, University of London, and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1954. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md. 444 pages, \$19.00.

The author of this outstanding contribution to surgical gynecology, Mr. Wilfred Shaw, was a versatile and sound gynecologist, as well as an erudite and gracious teacher, who attracted students from all parts of the world. He contributed extensively to the medical literature but, for many years, resisted the urging of his friends to set down his surgical experience in book form until an inexorable reminder of life's limit convinced him that his time was running out. He withdrew from practice and spent his remaining days creating an operative gynecology, which ranks with the best yet published. It is a fitting memorial to a great gynecologist, for Shaw died before the book came off the press.

Shaw's Operative Gynecology crowds a tremendous amount of information onto 444 pages without sacrifice of necessary details. Shaw describes technique in a vivid conversational style, easy to read and easy to remember. He is